

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00

NSCE-00 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 251640Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3529

USUN NEW YORK 589

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN REACTION TO CEASEFIRE

1. OCTOBER 25 PAPERS CARRY STORY OF OCTOBER 24 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND FONMIN MASMOUDI WHO RETURNED TO TUNIS FROM NEW YORK EARLIER SAME DAY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MASMOUDI BRIEFED PRESIDENT ON RECENT UN DEVELOPMENTS PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. PRESS NOTES THAT BOURGUIBA AGREED WITH MASMOUDI THAT "CEASEFIRE DOES NOT MEAN PEACE, REALIZATION OF WHICH APPEARS DIFFICULT IN THE PRESENT CONDITIONS". PAPERS ALSO REPORTE THAT MASMOUDI "UNDERLINED THAT WITH REGARD TO POSITIONS TAKEN ON THE CEASEFIRE RESOLUTUIONS TUNISIA'S SILENCE ON THIS SUBJECT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT".

2. MEANWHILE WE HEAR THAT INITIAL POSITIVE TUNISIAN REACTION TO CEASEFIRE SEEMS TO BE DISSIPATING AS MANY TUNIISIANS REPORTEDLY

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ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THAT CEASEFIRE IS TRAP BY WHICH ISRAEL

IN COLLUSION WITH U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO DENY ARABS THEIR MILITARY VICTORY.

3. COMMENT: IT CLEAR THAT GOT DOES NOT WISH STICK ITS NECK OUT AND IS WAITING FOR DUST TO SETTLE BEFORE TAKING ANY DEFINITIVE POSITION ON CEASEFIRE. THIS MAY BE DUE BOTH TO CONFUSION CONCERNING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST AS WELL AS TO CONCERN ABOUT LIBYAN AND ALGERIAN POSITIONS (TUNIS 6050).
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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